

Gasconade County SWCD

July 2011

Volume 22, Issue 1

2011 Natural Disaster Cost-Share Damage Assessment

In response to the unprecedented weather events this calendar year and to assist coordination efforts with conservation partners, the Soil and Water Conservation Program needs to determine the extent of the damage sustained to agricultural lands and completed cost-share practices. The program is looking at damage that has occurred to cost-share practices that are currently under a maintenance agreement and if new practices are needed as a result of these events.

If you have existing cost-share practices that are still under a maintenance agreement and have been damaged by a natural disaster (flood or storm), please call our office at 573-437-3478 ext 3 to schedule an appointment to do an assessment of the damages. We must submit a county wide report to the Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation Program by the 1st of September 2011.

This information will assist the Soil and Water Conservation Commission in determining the percentage of cost-share that eligible practices will be reimbursed to assist in the reconstruction.

CCPI Project Progressing

The first CCPI-Stabilizing Streambank Erosion Issues within the Bourbouse Watershed in Gasconade County project construction is well underway! Once the landowner has had the experience of constructing a couple of the rock weirs, he has generously offered to host a field day for the construction of the third weir.

Due to the construction process, weather, and other variables, the announcement for this event will be at the last minute and will be announced in your local **NEWSPAPERS!** If you are interested in seeing how a project like this is implemented, be sure to watch for the announcement.

The Gasconade County SWCD will provide a luncheon for this event.

Board of Supervisors:

Ron Hardecke - Chairman
Dennis Berger - Vice-Chairman
Debra Nowack - Treasurer
Michael Haeffner - Member
Robin Kliethermes - Secretary

District Staff:

Diana Mayfield - District Specialist II
Terry DuBois - District Technician II



NRCS Staff:

Melinda Barch - District Conservationist
Mark Brandt - Resource Conservationist
Megan Ordway - Soil Conservationist

MDC STAFF:

Kyle Lairmore, Private Lands Conservationist
Scott Williams, Fisheries Biologist
Aaron Holsapple - Forester
Lee Hughs - Wildlife Biologist

Monsanto Bus Tour

MONSANTO



***Sponsored by: Gasconade and Maries County
Soil & Water Conservation Districts and
Natural Resources Conservation Service***

August 4, 2011

Pick-up times & place:

Bank of Vichy, 14780 Hwy 63 - 6:30 a.m.

Owensville Wal-Mart, 1888 E Hwy 28 - 7:00 a.m.

Cost - \$25.00 per person, payable upon registration

Tour Highlights

BIOTECHNOLOGY TOUR - Since the mid 1990's plants delivering biotech benefits have given farmers new ways to solve old problems. Since 1998, we have introduced 12 new seed traits, and we will be introducing more products in the future. We seek to help farmers increase yields through herbicide tolerance, insect protection, weather protection, drought tolerance and increased productivity.

- Gene Discovery
- Gene Insertion
- Tissue Culture
- Greenhouses
- Growth Chambers
- Greenhouse Test Plants
-

BREEDING AND AGRONOMIC TECHNOLOGY TOUR - Plant breeding still depends on many techniques discovered centuries ago. These tried-and-true practices are combined with the knowledge and skills learned through modern science to develop seeds that offer the best yields for specific growing conditions

- Sampling and Testing
- Protective Seed Coating
- Consumer Health Benefits
- New Agronomic Practices
- Effective Weed Control

Lunch is Provided!

***Space is limited so please call 573-437-3478 ext 3
or 573-422-3342 to reserve your seat.***

Registration Deadline is July 22, 2011!

WOMEN IN AG CONFERENCE

The 2011

17th Annual Women in Agriculture

State Conference will be held in Boonville, Missouri, this year. The theme to this year's conference is "Taking Charge of Your Future". The conference will be held September 12-14, 2011. There will be various workshops including Forest Management and Your Economic Returns, How to Prepare your Child for the Future, Growing Your Own Herbs, and more. There will be a tour on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at the Warm Springs Ranch- Home of the Budweiser Clydesdale Horses. Have lunch in historic Arrow Rock and then visit the Starr Pines Christmas Tree Farm to see the ins and outs of raising those beautiful evergreens and learning about the wonderful aromatherapy business that this family also operates. There will be a trade show, silent auction, a banquet with guest speaker Senator Jean Carnahan, and Vera Massey will have a Stress Management seminar. You can purchase Lyceum Theater tickets at a group rate (10 or more people) of \$25.00 per ticket. This would be an activity you and the girls could do on your own. The show times are Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. ALSO, "Always...Patsy Cline" will be the show on Sunday while we are in Boonville. Please visit www.lyceumtheater.org for more information.

Don't forget to fill out your registration form and get your rooms reserved! There is a block of rooms that have been reserved for the nights of September 11-13 at \$49.00/night at the Isle of Capri casino and hotel. This rate is for a standard king or queen room and is a flat rate for single or double occupancy. (There are king and queen suites available at \$89.00/night). There are a limited number of non-smoking rooms and will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Please reference the Women in Ag conference when booking your room. Your reservation needs to be made by August 15, 2011.

For a program and registration form, please contact Diana at 573-437-3478 ext 3.



Feds Feed Families (F3) is a national food drive to raise food for Americans struggling with hunger. It began in 2009 as part of President Obama's *United We Serve* campaign and was designed to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during summer months, a time when they traditionally encounter decreases in donations and increases in the need for assistance. As the world-wide leader on issues of food and hunger, USDA has been one of the leading agencies in total contributions over the past two years.

You Can Help!

Stop by your local USDA Service Center and make a donation to the Feds Feed Families (F3) Food Drive. Your contribution will help a family in need. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please contact your local USDA Service Center for further information. **Every dollar contributed provides 20 pounds of food, or about 13 meals.**

FY 2011 End of the Year Cost-share Report

The Gasconade County SWCD is pleased to report that the following practices were completed and provided funding during Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011)

- ♦ **Sheet/Rill and Gully Erosion Concern:** 1 DWC-1, Water Impoundment Reservoir - \$8,000
- ♦ **Wood Land Erosion Concern:** 2 - N472, Use Exclusion - \$1,650.24 and 5 - DFR-5, Woodland Protection through Livestock Exclusion - \$13,388.03
- ♦ **Nutrient/Pest Management Concern:** 1 N595, Pest Management - \$375.00
- ♦ **Grazing Management Concern:** DSP-3.2, Water Distribution - \$16, 631.58; DSP-3.3, Fence - \$8,758.27; DSP-3.4, Lime - \$4,340.99; DSP-3.5, Legume - \$2082.54
- ♦ **Sensitive Area Concern:** N574, Spring Development - \$7,056.60; N351, Well Decommissioning - \$400.00

Total Cost-share funds paid - \$62,683.25

The Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District does not endorse nor recommend any of the vendors/contractors advertised in this newsletter, furthermore, any contractor/vendor that wishes to be added to the district's contractor/vendor list can be added upon request.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

WHAT: Annual 4th Grade Field Days

WHEN: September 28 & 29

**WHERE: Dennis & Brenda
Kurrelmeyer Farm**

Come and share in the lives of our children - Guaranteed a great time! We need people to cook, assist staff at stops, and anything else that might need to be done.



NRCS Program Sign-up

Be sure to watch your local **NEWSPAPERS** for the fall sign-up periods for the:

- ♦ **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP),**
- ♦ **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and**
- ♦ **the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

These federal programs are part of the Farm Bill. Please remember that you must maintain eligibility for these programs by following all of the established guidelines, which help to protect our soil and water resources.

UPCOMING CHANGES

The Gasconade County SWCD Board of Supervisors has made the following changes for the upcoming fiscal year due to budget constraints.

- ♦ The newsletter will only be printed twice a year. Activity information will be published in the local newspapers and on the district's website (www.swcd.mo.gov/gasconade).
- ♦ In lieu of an Annual Meeting, the Board will host an open house in the spring, where landowners can come and meet with the entire service center.
- ♦ A reception will be held for the Annual Poster Contest Winners.

The SWCD staff will maintain their current working hours in order to serve the landowners of Gasconade County. The office is open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Nutrient and Pest Management Cost-Share Program

The Gasconade County SWCD Board has decided to have a sign-up period for the Nutrient and Pest Management Practices during the month of November, 2011. Depending on the number of applications received and the acreage affiliated with them, the board will then decide on any acreage limits, if any, will be applied.

So mark your calendars in November to come in and apply for these practices.

**The Gasconade County SWCD
2011 Annual Report and Narrative**

Is posted on-line at

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/gasconade/2011BoardReports.htm>

EQIP FUNDS USED FOR HIGH TUNNELS

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to help install structural conservation practices and to implement management systems that promote conservation. One of the newer practices that EQIP supports is high tunnels and organic growers.

EQIP may pay for up to 75% of the costs associated with installing eligible practices, including high tunnels. For those qualifying as beginning farmers, limited-resource farmers, or socially disadvantaged farmers, EQIP funds are available for up to 90% of installation costs. Payments for organic operations may not exceed \$20,000 per year, or \$80,000 during any six-year period.

“High tunnels can help producers extend their growing seasons and also expand the availability of healthy, locally grown crops,” says JR Flores, State Conservationist. High tunnels are made of ribs of plastic or metal pipe covered with a layer of plastic sheeting. NRCS will provide financial assistance to fund one high tunnel per farm where there is an existing cultivated cropland. NRCS will offer financial assistance for up to 2,178 square feet. A larger project may be constructed, however, the landowner is responsible for 100% of the additional cost. To receive assistance, eligible producers must use commercially manufactured high tunnel kits, and no electrical, heating or mechanical ventilation system can be added.

JR Flores says the three-year study is part of USDA’s “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” initiative. He says the study will verify if high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide usage, keeping vital nutrients in the soil, extending the growing season, increasing yields and providing other benefits to growers. High tunnels may also be used in conjunction with going to an organic operation.

Please watch your local NEWSPAPERS for the next sign-up period for EQIP. Please note that there are no guarantees that High Tunnels will be funded, once again.



FSA News!

Final Crop Reports Due August 1

Just a reminder that we need your final crop report for corn, milo, soybeans (including double crop), CRP, hay & pasture and any other land uses by **August 1, 2011**. Crop reports are required for most FSA programs including CRP, DCP/ACRE, and commodity loans. Any reports after this day can be taken *with the late-file fee of \$46 per farm*. Remember, it is important that acreage and shares are consistent with USDA Farm Programs, crop insurance and crop sales receipts. Please visit your office as soon as possible to timely file your report.

Postcards

Missouri County FSA offices will **no longer mail postcard reminders** for upcoming program sign ups and deadlines due to budget restraints. Your local FSA Office will now use e-mail and/or text messaging to remind producers about approaching program deadlines. Call or come in person to *sign-up for FSA eAlerts* and receive electronic reminders. You will still receive your county FSA newsletter for program information. Bookmark www.fsa.usda.gov/mo to check for the newest program deadlines and information.

Reporting Failed/Prevented Planting Acreage-Deadline August 1

Producers need to report any acres they intended to plant but due to natural disaster they were unable to plant. Producers may also need to report failed acreage; including acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed prior to harvest. To file prevented planting acreage or failed acreage, producers must fill out a FSA-576, Notice of Loss at the local FSA office. When filing prevented acreage, producers are required to provide documentation, such as purchase orders, delivery of seed and fertilizer, or financing documents which proves intent to plant the crop. Deadline to report prevented planted acres has been extended to August 1st. File a failed acreage report with your local FSA office and crop insurance agent before destroying the crop.

County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office committees (COC) is important to *ALL* farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. FSA committee persons serve as a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA programs serve the needs of local producers. Elected committee members will serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2012. To become a nominee, eligible individuals residing in the election area must sign form FSA-669A, Nomination Form for FSA County Committee Election (see next page) agreeing to serve if elected. The nominee must also live in Boulware, Third Creek or Clay townships. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2011. If you are interested in serving on your local County Committee contact the FSA office for more details.

2011 Election Timeline

August 1 Nomination period ends.
November 4 Ballots Mailed to eligible voters
December 5 Last day to return ballot to your
 FSA office

FSA Offers Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Farm Service Agency (FSA), Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (includes nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

The July 2011 FSFL rate is 2.625 %. For more information, please contact Kate Gerlemann at the Gasconade County FSA office. 573-437-3478, ext 2

Gasconade County SWCD

314 Olive Street
Owensville, MO 65066
(573) 437-3478 ext. 3 FAX: (573) 437-4771

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Permit No. 8

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-7328 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 TDD.

Dates to Remember

July 22, 2011	Registration Deadline for Monsanto Tour
Aug 2, 2011	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center - 7:30 p.m.
Aug 4, 2011	MONSANTO BUS TOUR
Aug 16, 2011	Civil Rights Training - Staff out of office
Sept 6, 2011	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center - 7:30 p.m.
Sept 8-9, 2011	Maries River Grazing School, Osage County
Sept 21, 2011	FFA AG Field Day, Bem Branch (Rain date Sept 22)
Sept 28-29, 2011	4th Grade Field Days, Kurrelmeyer Farm
Oct 3-7, 2011	River Relief Project, Hermann, MO
Oct 4, 2011	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center - 7:30 p.m.
Oct 10, 2011	Columbus Day Holiday, Office Closed
Nov 1 - 30, 2011	SIGN UP PERIOD FOR NUTRIENT & PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
Nov 1, 2011	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service Center - 7:30 p.m.
Nov 6, 2011	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 11, 2011	Veteran's Day Holiday, Office Closed
Nov 24, 2011	Thanksgiving Day Holiday, Office Closed
Nov 28 - 30, 2011	Annual Training Conference, Staff out of office
Dec 8, 2011	Annual Christmas Dinner and Board of Supervisor Mtg, Place to be determined.
Dec 26, 2011	Christmas Day Holiday, Office Closed

New Clean Out Fee for Drills

If a drill is returned dirty, clogged or the seed boxes have not been properly cleaned out, there will be a \$100 service charge applied.

Board of Supervisors - effective 07/05/2011

Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

**LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE ON
FILE AT THE SWCD OFFICE BEFORE
EQUIPMENT CAN BE RENTED.**

**Drill charge: Minimum charge of
\$90.00 for less than 10 acres usage.
An additional \$9.00 will be charged
for each additional acre under 50
acres. There will be an \$8.00 per
acre charge for 50 acres or more.**

For Scheduling of equipment, please call
the SWCD office at 573-437-3478 ext 3,
unless other wise indicated.

- ◇ John Deere 10 ft no-till drill is
located at James Miller, Second
Creek Farms, 2828 Hwy 19
Owensville. Call 573-690-9065 or
314-609-7905 to schedule.
- ◇ Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with
warm season box is located at the
SWCD office.

Located at the SWCD Office:

- ◇ Rotowiper - \$25 a day
- ◇ Burn Equipment - \$50 deposit, \$10
use charge
- ◇ ATV Equipment (Seeder, Sprayer,
Disk) - \$100 deposit, \$20 a day each
piece or \$50 for all three
- ◇ ATV Warm Season Grass Seeder—no
charge—Donated by Quail Unlimited
- ◇ Soil Probe - no charge